

**City of Hyattsville  
Race & Equity Task Force Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Date: June 25th, 2024, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Participants:**

*Task Force Members:*

- Co-Chair Daniel Amador (DA)
- Record Keeper Secretary Jocelyn Medallo (JM)
- Member Nykia Clemonts (NC)
- Member Ana Valdez (AV)
- Member Rosheen Kabraji (RK)

*Staff:*

- Race & Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre (SL)

*Community Members:*

- Maximiliano Vasquez

**7:05 pm - Welcome & Call to Order** – Co-chair Amador

**7:05 pm - Roll Call** – Co-chair Amador

**7:06 pm - 7:07 pm – Acknowledgement of Guests**– Co-chair Amador

**7:07 pm - 7:08 pm – Acknowledgement of New Committee Member, Rosheen Kabraji** –

Co-chair Amador

- Welcome, Rosheen!

**7:08pm – 7:14pm Voting for Record Keeper** –

- Motion to modify the agenda to discuss nominations for Record Keeper and entertain a voting process for that position – JM term ended
  - DA moves; RK seconds; all in favor; motion passes.
- Overview of Record Keeper position: responsible for meeting notes and documenting discussion points, action items, and follow up items; submit minutes for review and approval before each RETF meetings. Term is one calendar year from nomination.
  - RK nominates JM; NC seconds nomination; JM accepts nomination.

- Uncontested candidacy. All vote in favor; no abstentions.

**7:15 pm – 8:05 pm – Equity Plan Work Session – Liaison Louimarre**

- RETF completed the draft document and presentation. Revisions made to presentation style. SL will share revised slides on Canva.
- Please review slides in advance of 7/23 RETF Committee meeting to provide feedback and group can make changes in-meeting.
- Reminders:
  - Identify alternate presenters and the date to present to Council.
    - NC: Excellent idea to choose alternates because there is travel in summer.
    - AV: Open to stepping into an alternate role.
    - DA, NC, JM confirmed availability for August 5<sup>th</sup> potential Council meeting.
    - This would mean we do a practice session on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - In preparation for the practice and actual presentations, between now and July 23<sup>rd</sup> REFT, presenters should familiarize themselves with the data in advance of presentation and can reference document/notes for questions and answers.

Presenters can add to the notes section.
  - The objective is not to read slides verbatim or cover every point in the document but to highlight important points
  - Council Members and residents will have full document for reference
- Next steps in community engagement

- Draft Slides: [https://www.canva.com/design/DAGIzO-uG8E/AMdYM6lfTaPHPrbTdAJauw/view?utm\\_content=DAGIzO-uG8E&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=editor](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGIzO-uG8E/AMdYM6lfTaPHPrbTdAJauw/view?utm_content=DAGIzO-uG8E&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor)
- Timeline would set up for potential finalized version presented to Council for approval
- Discussion
  - NC: Piggyback on currently scheduled events. We should push for in-person.
  - JM: Is there budget for translation and interpretation? What other languages would make this more accessible?
    - SL: Will look at data points for translation and what languages may have been requested; City has also done interpretation by request.
  - DA: Mechanism of providing feedback, whether in person or digital, like a short form or survey can be helpful. We did an event at Hyattsville Aging in Place and race and equity is so broad that it was more difficult to provide feedback. Is it a form (e.g., two questions and free form)?
  - DA: Could the person who runs Hello Hyattsville Resident page speak to the RETF and provide a tutorial on how to use the platform?
  - RK: The digestible part of plan is key. Everyone has different interest points; some people will connect to certain issues more than others. My thought is how do we break it down into different subject areas and the topics that the plan covers? It is probably easier to engage with a sub-topic

than race and equity as a larger issue. Making information accessible is key.

- DA: Links to the communications team that worked on Pride – can we partner with them to co-create and co-design the in-person visioning feedback sessions?
  - Members in favor to work with the comms team
- SL: Sections are broken down in the various categories. We can find ways to break down so that it matters to daily life.
- Review of potential outreach events
  - August 18th (International Fest Summer Jam) – JM and AV will attend
  - September 15th (Hispanic Heritage Summer Jam) – RK and NC will attend
  - October 14th (Zombie Run) – NC will attend and DA will support
  - Ward Check In Meetings – SL will reach out to members as they are scheduled; makes sense for members to attend the wards they reside in
    - DA: We do not currently have representation for all wards (none for ward 4)
    - RK: What do ward check ins entail?
      - SL: Council Members to get a pulse on what is happening in the community and to share information with the community – tend to be more informal.
- Maximiliano (Community Member) question (in chat): How can I help this city online?

- DA: We have done surveys and asked for online input. There is also a portal where we can identify any issues.
- SL: Hyattsville.org website and City calendar will list information on opportunities to share or tap in. City Council meetings are virtual and online; agenda as posted in advance. There are usually the first and third Mondays of each month.

**8:05 pm – 8:22 pm – Equity Officer Updates – Liaison Louimarre**

- SL: Thank you, AC and DA, for collaborating with Julia. From what I understood, it was a meaningful event. Over 20+ people were in attendance. I wanted to share feedback from a resident in Ward 1 who had hopes to have more visibility for Pride programming in the City (other municipalities had a parade). The library had a Pride event; PG County had event. Next year, we are looking to collaborate with other municipalities.
- AV: Has a Pride parade in HVL ever been done?
  - SL: Yes, police department and other departments hosted a parade.
  - DA: Great idea to partner with other municipalities that have an interest in doing that. We could partner with SOHY – co-branded and/or led with businesses?
  - SL: Will look into this idea with Community Services.
- SL: Resident staff have also raised the opportunity to have a connected event between Juneteenth and Pride. Thoughts?
  - RK: Connectivity in what context – overlap of events? What was the request?

- SL: As I shared challenges with budgets and capacity, the idea was raised to have a connected event for different legacies.
  - NC: The only reason might be for budget. Other than saving money, I don't see that they would mix.
  - DA: It's more about making space to focus and celebrate very different victories and challenges, in a different context. Can we explore other avenues that would not require the City to be the main coordinator and driving force? Festivals are good for small businesses.
  - SL: There is power in creating those separate spaces.
- SL: Updates:
  - Reminder: If you have not yet completed the Open Meetings Act training, please do and share a screenshot to SL.
  - Update on Government Alliance on Race and Equity network: Staff members joining a learning cohort last year and as our final project, we are working to find an equitable solutions to homelessness, especially in West Hyattsville. A few of of us met with the PG County Homelessness Outreach team to discuss ways we can collaborate for direct response and how the City can think about the root causes (including affordable housing). We also discussed working to create a rainy day fund – often when we discuss homelessness, we think of how to respond to that state when it occurs. But other municipalities have created a rainy day

fund that can be used for potential evictions, being late in public utilities. This was one thing that was identified that is in alignment with the RETF plan.

- AV: Cash assistance programs are vital. They may be one month behind on rent and rather than be evicted, have an eviction on their record.
- DA: Can that fund be used to cover mental health support? Addiction treatment? There are a lot of reasons that lead to a person being unhoused. We could use that assistance to address as many of those causes as possible. One of the biggest things that lags is transitional housing. There are homeless shelters but how do we get folks back into stable, long-term housing. Is there a county-wide strategy to respond to this issue? For Hyattsville, this should be a county strategy.

**8:23 pm – 8:26pm - Status of Meeting Minutes - Liaison Louimarre**

- JM shared the Juny meeting minutes. REFT will review the June meeting minutes in the July meeting. We only need the April meeting minutes.
  - DA will share notes from April meeting minutes.

**8:26 pm – Adjourn Meeting – Co-chair Amador**

- July 2024 agenda:
  - Practice run for Council presentation
  - To be confirmed – Hello Hyattsville demo

- Firm up and make decisions re: community engagement during canvassing in-person events
- JM moves to adjourn the meeting; AV seconds; all in favor; none opposed or abstaining.